

MONO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Monday, March 26, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Town / County Conference Room
Mammoth Lakes, California

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Hap Hazard, Chair
Kirk Stapp, Vice Chair
Bill Reid, Supervisor
Neil McCarroll, Councilman
Wendy Sugimura, Councilman

Caltrans

Brad Mettam
Ryan Dermody
David Bloom
Bryan Winzenread
Brian McElwain
Terry Erlwein
Mike Weier
Trish Sanders

Staff Present

Scott Burns, Director
Gerry LeFrancois, Mono County Planner
Scott Campbell, Town Assistant Airport Manager
Evan Nikirk, Mono County Director Public Works
Kelly Garcia, Mono County Assistant Director Public Works
Ray Jarvis, Town Director Public Works
Peter Bernasconi, Town Sr. Associate Civil Engineer
Lynetta Fuerst, LTC Secretary

Others

Sandy Hogan, Citizen
Tim Hansen, Lee Vining RPAC

Agenda items may not have been taken in order.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Hazard at 9:05 a.m. followed by the pledge.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Sugimura nominated Commissioner Hazard for Chair and seconded by Commissioner Reid. Passed 5/0. Those in favor: Hazard, McCarroll, Reid, Stapp and Sugimura. Absent: Commissioner Farnetti. Commissioner McCarroll nominated Commissioner Stapp for Vice-Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sugimura. Passed 5/0. Those in favor: Hazard, McCarroll, Reid, Stapp and Sugimura. Absent: Commissioner Farnetti.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 12, 2007

Chair Hazard moved to approve the February minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Sugimura. Passed 3/0. Those in favor: Hazard, Reid, Sugimura. Commissioners Stapp and McCarroll abstained.

4. TRANSIT

a. Inyo Mono Transit update on Lee Vining – June Lake pilot route

The "Unmet Needs" transportation pilot program between Lee Vining/June Lake to Mammoth Lakes began December 18, 2006. Since June Mountain closed early for the season the ridership had declined. Ms. Watterson will be recommending changes to make routes more efficient. Commissioner Reid would like to know the number of riders from Mono City and Lee Vining. Commissioner Hazard would like to see a follow up survey asking residents why they were not using the service.

b. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) update

The ESTA Board is working with a consultant to set up the administration foundation. The anticipated start date for ESTA to begin operations is 7-1-2007, at which time they will take over transit. Inyo Mono Transit employees desiring to work for ESTA must apply.

c. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) update

Mr. Burns attended a YARTS meeting on 4-2-2007 as an interviewer for a transit provider who would run the entire system, east and west side. Recommendations were given to the YARTS BOARD to consider.

5. CALTRANS

a. Discussion regarding bad sidewalk concrete in June Lake

The main tripping hazards have been repaired. Repairs to the sidewalk with the contractor are scheduled for 2008.

b. Discussion regarding winter closure of Crestview Rest Area

Until 1998-99 Crestview Rest area has been traditionally closed in the winter. Unfortunately, maintenance funds were not included in the Bond passage. Monthly costs to maintain the rest area are \$ 9500. Caltrans cited some reasons for the winter closure 1) low traffic volumes 2) limited resources 3) problems with camping, dumping, and hazardous ice conditions. On the positive side Caltrans could request additional funding for maintenance and revise the DART contract (maintenance providers) to open the rest area earlier and close later in the year. Commissioner Reid commented the restrooms were needed with the long stretch of highway and Commissioner Stapp asked what can LTC do to lobby Caltrans for support of an open facility year round. Caltrans suggested a letter

from the Mono County Local Transportation Commission requesting support and reasons why the rest area should be open all year. Commissioner Hazard cited 1) safety issues 2) a needed emergency shelter 3) the rest area has been a command post for Search & Rescue 4) emergency phone is available 5) we need to give the motoring public a place to rest 6) without the rest area open the public has been using the "side of the road" as a bathroom facility 7) the rest area meets the criteria why they were built, and the structure should be back in service.

c. Discussion regarding Coleville Post Office southbound turn lane

The turning lane into the Post Office is very restricted to southbound traffic with a very short turning radius from the paved shoulder. Commissioner Reid inquired about the 'right of way' depth. Caltrans stated they have no 'regulatory authority' and maintenance on the shoulder area is from the permittee (Post Office). Commissioner Reid requested a meeting be set up between Caltrans, the Post Office with Evan Nikirk and Kelly Garcia from Mono County Public Works to try to find a solution. Brad Mettam from Caltrans also stated he would look into 'a potential safety issue' at the turn. Commissioner Hazard asked if the landscape shrubs could be removed to re-design the turn? Agendize for the May LTC meeting.

d. Update on activities in Mono County including quarterly report

Mr. Mettam introduced Dave Bloom who will be Regional Transportation Planning. Many at Caltrans are cross training to help keep the work flow moving forward. Mr. Mettam is working with the State regarding our Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funds, which need to be more flexible. In April Caltrans will be monitoring traffic flows in Lee Vining and near the end of May will be installing speed signs which will be up for one year. Caltrans plans on doing a before and after study. Commissioner Reid thanked Caltrans for the quick turnaround on this project.

6. STATE / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

a. Quarterly update on projects in Town of Mammoth Lakes

Mr. Bernasconi provided a handout and explained current as well as up coming projects in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

b. Quarterly update on projects in Mono County

Ms. Garcia updated the Commission on the status of each project in Mono County. Many projects after being on hold will be moving forward with the Bond passage.

c. Consider / adopt Resolution 2007-03 programming projects for 2006 STIP Augmentation

Based on the handout provided Mr. LeFrancois explained the augmentation breakdown and how the projects were selected 1-10. The goal is to keep as many projects moving along with the Bond funds as we can. Commissioner Sugimura moved to adopt Resolution 2007-03, seconded by Commissioner McCarroll. Passed 5/0. Those in favor: Hazard, McCarroll, Reid, Stapp and Sugimura.

d. Consider / adopt Resolution 2007-04 amending the 2006 RTIP
The Town of Mammoth Lakes requested additional \$1m programmed for the Scenic loop improvement project FY 09-10. There will be 5 foot shoulders along six miles of the scenic loop. Commissioner Stapp motioned to adopt Resolution 2007-04 amending the 2006 RTIP and seconded by Commissioner Reid. Passed 5/0. Those in favor: Hazard, McCarroll, Reid, Stapp and Sugimura.

7. COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Letter from Tom Hallenbeck regarding Crestview Rest Area closure
- b. Letter from Beverly Foundation regarding \$500 Special Recognition
- c. Department of Transportation 2006 STIP Allocations for Town of Mammoth Lakes

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – MAY 14, 2007 in Lee Vining

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 by Chair Hazard.